

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
COUNCILMEMBER
THIRD DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: George Biagi

(619)236-6633 Fax:(619)595-1481

gbiagi@sanidiego.gov

Councilmember Atkins Takes Lead In Shaping City Budget Proposal

Key Citywide Community Services Restored

SAN DIEGO--Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins took the lead today in shaping the city's budget proposal to help protect key citywide community services which were originally scheduled to be cut. Working closely with Mayor Murphy and her council colleagues throughout last week, Atkins crafted the original budget memo which was incorporated in full in the final budget proposal presented by the Mayor to the Council. The proposal passed unanimously.

"This proposal avoids short-changing the citizens of my district by keeping Sunday hours for at least one branch library, and by restoring recreation center hours and seasonal pool operations which are—as we have seen by public testimony over the past month—clearly important to the community," said Councilmember Atkins. "Critical citywide services such as restroom cleaning and litter removal at our beaches and in Mission Bay have also been restored. These were top priorities for residents from all districts."

Vital services were also restored in Balboa Park, including hours at the Balboa Park Activity Center, Morley Field and the Municipal Gymnasium. Additionally, the Council voted to approve the repair of aging and deteriorating sewer laterals in the park, and restore the Balboa Park Tram hours, ensuring that mobility inside the park remains consistent, especially during the summer months.

"My goal was to ensure that regional resources like the Activity Center and Municipal Gym remain an asset to the community, instead of becoming tragically under-utilized facilities," Atkins said. "And fixing the sewer laterals and keeping the trams running are equally important components of Balboa Park's infrastructure."

Highlighting their importance to neighborhoods throughout the city, Councilmember Atkins also worked successfully to add the restoration of hours at all Community Service Centers citywide to the proposal.

"While this proposed budget still contains some cuts that are hard to swallow, most notably in library services and street maintenance, it has made significant strides toward meeting our city's most

important needs while acknowledging our fiscal challenges," Atkins said.

Last week, Councilmember Atkins worked with City Manager Mike Uberuaga to locate funds to keep the city's successful 6 to 6 after-school program free for all current participants. It was originally proposed that a \$90 fee be instituted for all students whose families don't qualify for the City's free or reduced-price lunch program.

The budget proposal is contingent upon the state balancing its budget without the need for additional revenue from cities. There has been some discussion at the state level that an additional \$1 billion will be needed from local governments to help the state to balance its budget. If enacted, San Diego's share of this amount would be \$20 million.

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